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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>PREL PHUM MT</u>

SUBJECT: MALTA: REGRETS USG WITHDRAWAL FROM UN HUMAN RIGHTS

COUNCIL

REF: SECSTATE 61034

(SBU) Poloff spoke with Joseph Cole, MFA Director for Global Affairs, to deliver reftel demarche on the USG's decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) as an observer due to growing disappointment with its performance since its inception. Cole indicated that Malta had similar concerns regarding the lack of effectiveness of the UNHRC, but regretted the USG withdrawal from the organization. DAVIS